

THE MO

Melodrama

**LORDE'S ALBUM
WE HAVE ALL BEEN
WAITING FOR**

**SAY HELLO TO
BOOKSTAGRAM,
THE SOCIAL MEDIA
FOR:
BOOKS.**

**SUMMER
FESTIVALS: TUNES,
FOOD AND
ECCENTRIC COMPANY**

**GETTING READY
FOR BAKE OFF.**

**DIVERSITY
TREND:
SHOWS
BEING CANCELLED.**



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It is with a somewhat heavy heart that I conclude this year's 'The Mo' with a final editor's note, and a fond farewell. Undoubtedly this has been a year of ups and downs (as cheesy as it sounds) but The Marlborough Oracle has been one thing that has allowed writers to write, thinkers to think and readers to read; but most importantly, it's provided a way for all students to see what our community of young adults are capable of. It has encouraged our readers to argue, to question, to challenge and to contribute to 'The Mo' too.

Let it not be said, we are not an "ordinary" school magazine, we are so much more. The work that goes into this by the students (who pour blood, sweat and tears into it) and the teachers (who provide advice, guidance and support) is incredible; so let this be an opportunity for me to say "thank you" and for them to have their final bow before the curtains close on another year.

However, just because one chapter is ending it doesn't mean that the story over. As always, this is just one more chapter that builds in to a bigger story. I'm just sad that I won't be in the story, I'll be reading it. Yet, I can't be melancholy as I know that just as the world will continue turning, 'The Mo' will continue providing excellent content and continue to improve.

So please, enjoy this last edition of 'The Mo' for 2016-17, then, look back at the year you've had with a smile before turning to the future and seeing the amazing opportunities it will hold. To end this year on a high, we've knocked out the BEST Philosopher's Ramblings you've ever pondered over; an insight into the creative mind; and what you can look forward to in those scorching summer months. We hope you love this edition, and we hope you have a brilliant summer holiday, no matter where you are.

NC x

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DIVERSITY IS CANCELLED.

When it comes to media content, we live in an era where fans of TV shows are clamouring for new seasons and new episodes, and networks, such as Netflix, are, indulging these impulses. TV shows overstay their welcome, either because of the fans' overwhelming demand, or network executives refusing to let a good thing die, preferring to cash in on a good thing.

I was surprised, therefore, when Netflix chose to cancel 'The Get Down' (a music-driven drama that documents the emergence of a new art form in the 1970s) and the sci-fi show 'Sense8'.

The consecutive loss of these two original series shows sends a clear message that 'diversity is expensive'. You might be wondering – why I am so angry that a TV show has been cancelled? Well, let me explain. 'Sense8' revolved around the theme of connection; it was the show's key theme. Its characters and storylines extended beyond the boundaries such as of race, sex and sexuality.

The representation of thought-provoking topics was extremely important - especially in a world where Donald Trump is the president of the "free world". Overall, it's just a great loss of diverse and unique storytelling with actors from all cultures and backgrounds - including Jamie Clayton, a transgender woman portraying a transgender character on screen, which believe it or not, is very hard to find. If you are as angered and heartbroken as I am that the show has ended, and you want to take action, you can sign a petition online at [change.org](https://www.change.org).

Moreover, another loss when it comes to diversity in the media is the cancellation of 'The Get Down' - which followed the rise of hip-hop through a group of young Black and Afro-Latinos in the South Bronx of New York in 1970s. The explanation for cancelling the show was that it was not economically viable (the production was the most expensive original series-



- with up to \$120 million invested) and it had audiences of only a fifth of those that settle down to watch 'Orange Is The New Black'. The irony is, Netflix promoted 'Orange is The New Black' which centres on a middle-class white heroine, all over their company—promotion for the much cheaper series is everywhere: social media, trailers, billboards, posters etc. In contrast, 'The Get Down' had a trailer on Netflix and that was about it. To me that sends a very clear message and explains why it had a small audience. They can't complain about the viewings when they failed to do enough to promote it.

Moreover, Netflix's most controversial (and tweeted about) show '13 Reasons Why' has been renewed for another season. I have to say it, after seeing the show's finale, I am a little confused as to how the show could continue. All of the material from the original book by Jay Asher's novel has been covered and Hannah Baker's suicide has happened and been explained. So where exactly can the star go from here? Welcome to your tape... again I guess.

I understand cutting a show when it becomes an economic liability instead of an economic asset, but when did we get to a point when executives won't let a one off series just be a one off? Why are people still interested in boring and not recommended shows when there are amazing shows with diversity of both narrative and the representation? Surely if Netflix wanted to cut down a bit on their expenses, why didn't they cut off shows like 'Iron Fist'? Which had one of the lowest ratings and views for a Marvel production and was highly problematic. Surely that would have been a better choice... or is 'Iron Fist' just too white?

Which brings me back to my point - why doesn't diversity sell? Why is diversity 'expensive'? Why is the media so adamant not to include diverse representation? Unfortunately, until viewers wake up, take action and try to bring attention to these injustices, showing executives that diversity does matter and that diverse audiences want diverse media representation, change won't happen.



Summer Festivals

As I sit here, on a Saturday night, writing this article all I'm thinking about is my mate dancing alongside 135,000 people to the Foo Fighters within the world of Glastonbury. In fact, while I was sitting in my lessons a few days ago, I was thinking the exact same thing. I began to feel a deep sense of regret at not buying a ticket and missing the insanely talented and diverse line-up including: Laura Marling, Fatboy Slim, Lorde and Radiohead. Instead, I watched my friend's snapchats of the magnificent stages, crazy lounges and vegan cafés and grumbled, "I wish I was there".

For years, in fact, ever since I was six, I've been going to music festivals (and no, I don't mean camping for five days at Glastonbury). Instead, my family and family friends would go to Lovebox in London every year, loving the music, the sense of community, the sun, and the many MANY food trucks. When I got older and went to more festivals, I realised that there were hundreds of different festivals, with a wide range of genres in the UK alone. Which made me wonder, what is it about music festivals that makes us yearn for the summer so much as soon as it ends?

First of all, for me (and for millions of others) it's all about the music. Knowing that festivals are enjoyed by the old and the young, and are overall united by music just makes me feel genuine happiness like nothing else. There's nothing more uplifting than

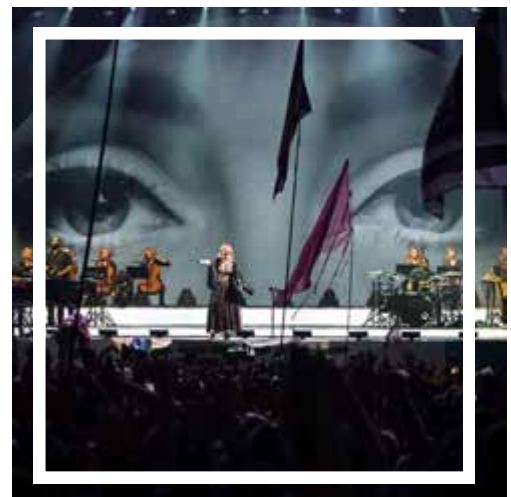
connecting with a stranger by singing and dancing with them at a festival. Even though you have never seen them before, and the changes are you won't even know their name, you suddenly feel a personal connection with them. Like you, they are there for the music.

Some of us are born campers and live for the thrill of setting up a tent and looking like a worm as you sleep. Me? I'd rather be cosied up in a warm bed, but when it comes to festivals, camping is part of the experience. Just as she-pees, wellie boots, denim hats and an all round feeling of love and merriment.

Whether you manage to sleep or not, whether you manage to wash or not, whether you manage to catch a person's name or not is irrelevant! If it ends up with you never seeing the person you've sang with again, it doesn't matter - it's a weekend of connections and a weekend of making memories.

Festivals like Latitude, for example, do not only focus on the art of music but the art of...art! They use the venue as an opportunity for poets, comedians, writers and artists to be involved. The artisan world get to show off their work either on stage or throughout the festival grounds.

If you want to meet new people then one of the best way you can do this is with a festival! With people who all have the same love



of music in common with you; you'll definitely bump into someone with your favourite band's T-shirt on to have a chat with. Even waiting in the (rather ridiculously long) toilet lines, you'd definitely get chatting to someone about the band they just saw, or the stage that they are about to make their way too. Throughout any festival there's always a comfortable and exhilarating vibe, giving everyone the opportunity to just be.

Overall, whether it's the music, the camping or the people that float your boat, what everyone goes for is a weekend of escapism from everyday life. A weekend to put aside anything that's been bothering you on your mind to experience the music, food and happiness with thousands of strangers who are there to do the same.

Who knew that something as simple as music in a field could make us so happy? I tell you,

that Woodstock bunch were on to a good thing! No wonder there are so many festivals to choose from this festival season. If I were you, I would have a look at the playlists for: Reading and Leeds, V-Festival, Lovebox, Latitude, Creamfields and even our own M-Fest and get your tickets booked.



Festival Playlist

1. Dig Down by Muse
2. Good Grief by Bastille
3. Gooley by Glass Animals
4. What You Know by Two Door Cinema Club
5. Fire by Kasabian
6. Heatwave by Wiley
Angles by The xx
7. The Pretender by Foo fighters
8. Shape of You by Ed Sheeran

9. T-shirt Weather by Circa Waves
10. Lose Yourself by Eminem
11. Tongue-tied by Grouplove
12. Now or Never by Halsey
13. Green Light by Lorde
14. Budapest by George Ezra

LORDE

MELODRAMA

When Lorde first slipped into the music industry, she was a young girl, just shy of sixteen and with her moodiness came a lyrical heroine, in fact a *Pure Heroine*, that rocked the pop world and the world of songwriters and singers upside down. Four years later, and everyone is eagerly waiting to get lost in her lyrics, and what does she do? She places *Melodrama* before us. It is clear through every note that her sexy, throaty voice sings that she has quite literally poured her heart into this piece of artistry.

Compared to *Pure Heroine*, it is clear that Lorde has taken a different turn for this album. She spent a lot of her debut album looking in on adolescent life, adopting a slightly scolding persona as she warily looks on at her fellow teenagers partying away their years - "Maybe the Internet raised us/ Or maybe people are jerks". But in this follow up it is clear that while Lorde still holds her a seriousness and maturity—this time she allows the listener to experience her wandering in and out of the party, skimming its edges and getting subtly carried away on the fretful and the frisky moments—just like any twenty years old should. While *Melodrama* certainly holds lighter moments, there permeates an internal debate throughout as she huskily questions: should she mourn her long time relationship break up, or she should embrace the blissful pleasure of being free and single?

The album begins with 'Green Light', a song that will get anyone moving. In it she is torn between letting go or travel back to that green light, "I know about what you did and I wanna scream the truth/ She thinks you love the beach, you're such a damn liar". The album then transitions subtly, but not softly, in to an exploration of party life in 'Sober' and 'Homemade Dynamite', and the dazzling dangers of letting the night absorb you and spit you right back out again. The desperate urge to dance fades into the comfortable, 'The Louvre', as Lorde talks about the perks of new relationships before her voice breaks into 'Liability', a wistfully song of her burdens and fears especially as "he made the big mistake of dancing in my storm/ Says it was poison". Again, the raging debate of breaking up and moving on is felt in 'Hard feelings/

Loveless'. Which leads us to 'Sober II', a song that catapults the listener back to 'Pure Heroine' vibes; Lorde argues that the party life isn't all that magical after all and that the desperate need for the high of life is all a front - "All the glamour and the trauma/ And the f***ing melodrama". Throughout, it is clear that in every note her smoky voice hits is the complexity of relationships, including every high and low. What's most notable is the need for revenge on her long term boyfriend through the thing he hated most—her words.

The album begins to then wrap up with 'Supercut' and 'Liability (reprise)' which both catch that roaring feeling on driving down the highway with the wind in your hair. Leading us to the bittersweet 'Perfect Places', leaving the listener questioning—where we, as the younger generation, fit into society and what is the beating down pressure for us to make the most of our free time?

Personally, I could never say that one album was better than the other—they are equally good - the difference is the where Lorde is in her life. 'Pure Heroine' perfectly encapsulates teenage doubts on life and the world; whereas 'Melodrama' is perfect for those summer nights switching from the relentless desire of letting go to the jarring stop signs where we sit and examine the party and "Trying to find these perfect places/ What the f*** are perfect places anyway?"





How to: Bookstagram



With 100 million daily active users, Instagram is certainly far from being the smallest social media app. As more and more users start to snap photos, new parts of Instagram emerges. You have: the personal accounts, where people keep others updated on their day to day life; you have the pets of Instagram, where animals owners create accounts filled with snapshots of their cute creatures; you have the food account (which I am sure we all follow) posting daily photos of delicious mouth watering dishes; which cleanly leads us onto the vegan fitness grams, the content of which is filled with acai bowls and new yoga positions; there are the fashion gurus, who keep us updated on their new outfits and blog posts and then....

Then, there are the grams for book lovers and writers. For the booklovers out there, I give you *bookstagram*: a place where millions of people post daily photos of books. Until two years ago I was oblivious to this corner of Instagram until I accidentally stumbled onto an account that took photos of books. Two years later, with an account of my own I have never looked back.

Why does this make me so happy? Well, it's no secret that I love books, so having a place where I can be updated with book news, share my love of books and to hear about others' love of Literature. Plus, it gives me the chance to broaden my photography skills. You see, the simple gist of *bookstagram* is that you post photographs of the books that you love, the books you are reading and the books you want to read (aka TBR!).

Essentially, it is another chance to try photography from a different angle—and who knew

there were so many ways to photograph books?

If you do ever come to the bookworm corner of Instagram, you won't just find one sort of account — oh no — in fact that *bookstagramers* are one of the most diverse group of photographers out there. You have accounts, like mine, that where books are taken into the wild and the photographer has spent hours on the shoot, taking photographs of books and nature in its greenest. There are accounts that take thousands of photos arranging books and other props into pleasing flatlays. Additionally, then accounts that simply show a love of books as the are snapped in an aesthetic 'coffee shop' on a Sunday way.

That's that the thing with *bookstagram*, the possibilities are endless. Styling your photos and finding it's a perfect platform is never a chore, plus there is no set way to do it. You don't have to be a fancy photographer with a super cool camera; you don't have to have lots of books; you don't even have to be an avid reader! Edit, Photo-shop, filter—it's up to you; share books you love, you hate or the it's never to late... it doesn't matter.

The world of Instagram, and more importantly, the world of *bookstagram* is a community of artisans.



And like any community, we don't only talk about books, we are huge dorks when it comes to upcoming tv shows, movies and games. Recently, a topic that kept popping up again and again on *bookstagram* was the issue with diversity within literature. You would think in 2017 we would have lots of books with diversity, right? Wrong. Only some books with diversity make it to the big booksellers and publishers—diverse books (with quality representation, non-stereotypical characters—otherwise what's the point?) have limited promotion and a limited marketing drive.

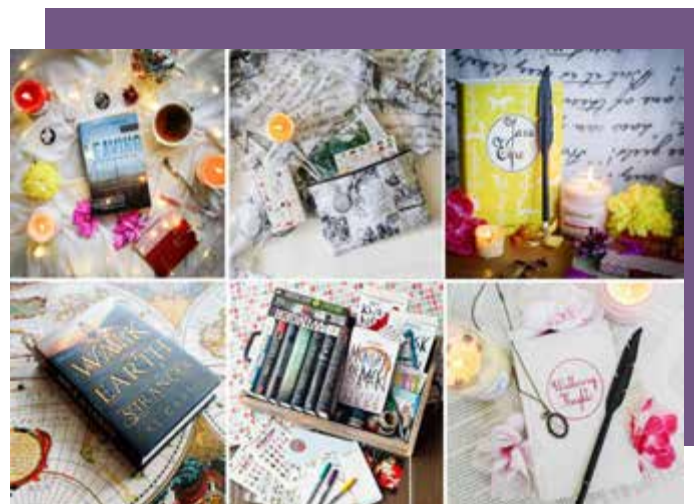
One of the main issues *bookstagram* has encountered is readers not being intersectional with their reading material; a big movement has erupted for the #readdiversebooks— and more importantly reading #ownvoices, (when a marginalised author writes about their own experiences) which makes the representations heart touching. Which shows how important *bookstagram* can be for readers; it made me question my own text choices and ask, when was the last time I read a book with say a disabled character in a fantasy setting? A gay Puerto Rican mermaid? A black no-nonsense girl who saves the dystopian world? A blind Asian-American character who falls in love at high school? (You MUST be sick of that white girl who thinks she is ugly but is actually just so gorgeous that not one but TWO white boys fall in love with her - and also she is the only one that can save the world, as her cool person of colour friend was murdered meaning she is the...no wait for it....THE CHOSEN ONE).

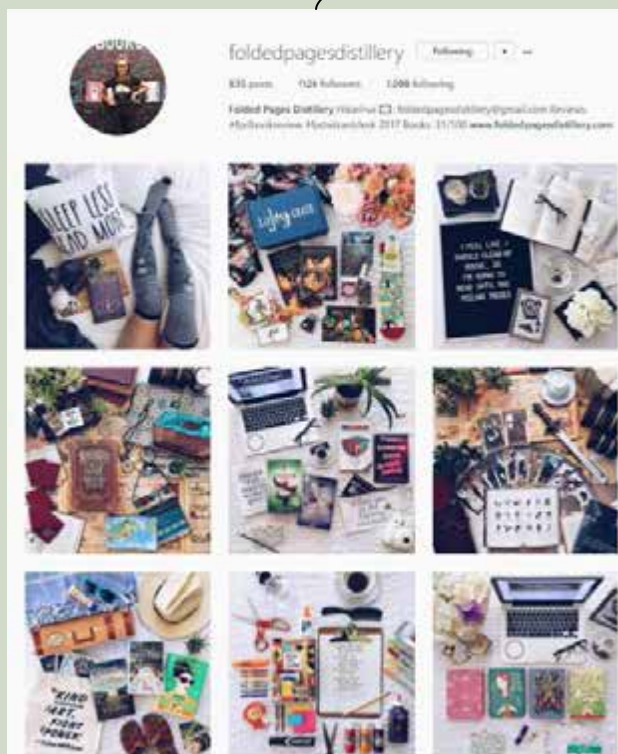
Through recommendations from *bookstagram*, my reading habits have changed drastically—only a few years ago I would I have said my favourite book is 'The Hunger Games'—but now I'm aware of harmful trappings of the white saviour and the dangerous aspect of not including marginalised characters.

Moreover, another benefit *bookstagram* comes with is making friends. If you told me a few years ago I would make my closest friends over

social media I would have laughed in your face. Friends with people I don't even know? That is laughable! But ironically here I am with a tight group of book lovers who can happily and comfortably say that it doesn't matter if we don't meet in real life—I will still be friends with them as I grow older. Of course, with all social media, you have to be aware of how to stay safe while online, and the school have made sure that we have been advised students and parents how to do this (if you are in any doubt, please speak to **your parent/carer**, Mr Rutherford, your DOL or your tutor). If you already have an Instagram account it would be best to keep that set to private and create a new account to use with Bookstagram. As this account is public I am cautious when anyone tries to DM me and never share personal details and private information either.

So... now that you have got the gist of *bookstagram*, you may be wondering why anyone would want to talk about books this much! Alternatively, if you are a fellow book lover or a reader like me, you may actually be thinking hey this is for me!. If you are the latter then what are you waiting for? *Bookstagram* is the perfect opportunity to spread your love of books; it is thriving with recommendations, reviews and new releases. The first step obviously is to set up an account, chose a name (preferably book related with a personal twist on it!—mine is @amidnightreader), follow a few people to set up your feed and then start taking photos!





Viktoria is one of my most favourite *bookstagrammers*; she is the first account when *bookstagram* emerged that ventured outside and mixed her feed with magical photos of strange scenery and her love of books. She is also an autumn child meaning when autumn comes around her feed is quite literally on fire—if you have a chance, scroll back to last year and droll over her enchanting October photos.

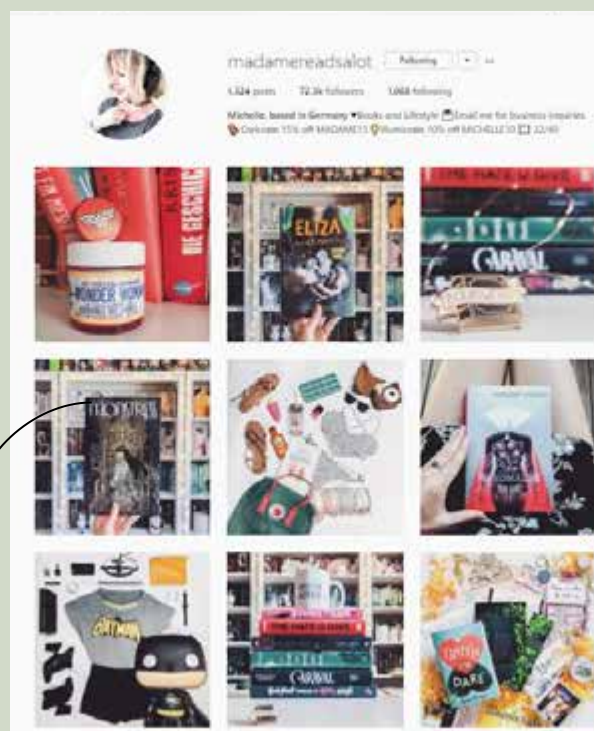


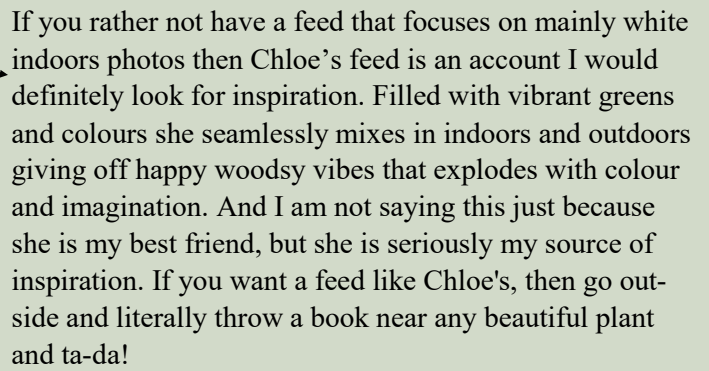
Michelle is one of the accounts that strives to be a flatlay styled account but unlike some others she tries to mix it up with different angles and shots. Although her account focuses mainly on books she also takes super cute photos of bookish candles, book merch (funky props) and art work. If you like this sort of style, I would advise you to try experimenting with a variety of books laid out in interesting angles, use bright colours on a white background.


When you come to *bookstagram* millions of accounts, the first sort of feed you will find are accounts filled with lavishly decorated flatlays focusing on one or two books, book subscription unboxings and everyone's favourite a classic “sock Sunday”. @foldedpagesdistillery is one of my top favourite accounts that manages to pull off such creative flatlays, without having them look the same!



Ali, my best and first friend on *bookstagram*, is one of the few accounts that goes for the more simple but aesthetic photos. She fills her feed with Parisian coffee dates and comfy Sunday bed-sheets dates with cups of tea and avocado toast. The best thing about this feed is that she just posts what she likes, so if in the morning you wake up and find sunlight warming your sheets, grab some tea and your recent read and start to snap away.

















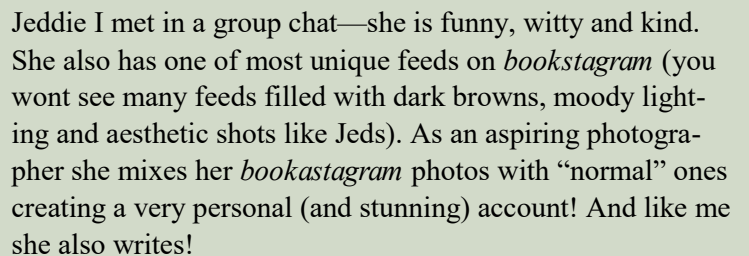



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Food Glorious Food

I'm a foodie. Not so much in the sense that I can tell you every component of a dish, or that I can create pieces of edible art, just in the fact that **I really like food.**

The world is a wonderful place with all kinds of dishes and food that we can eat and enjoy, and it makes sense that we will have days (or weeks) where we may celebrate those wonderful foods (like doughnut week), but are we aware of the odd few days in June where we get to celebrate some rather specific categories or items of food?

Let me explain.

On 16th June we had National Fudge Day (which sounds divine), followed by Eat Your Vegetables Day on the 17th. Kind of odd the fact that we are encouraged to binge and gorge ourselves on the wonderful sweetness that is fudge before turning around on the next day by trying to correct what you've done by having some good ol' veggies. But it doesn't end there. On 18th June we have International Picnic Day (take that as you will), and two days after we have Ice Cream Soda Day.

Now, I'm not so naive to believe that we all celebrate these days (although we should, and there probably should be some kind of Google doodle to mark the occasion) but it certainly makes you think about who came up with the ironic little snippet in June. There have been countless campaigns by the government and other organisations to encourage healthy eating and the importance of your 5-a-day, and it seems now is when people are paying more attention to the kind of food they are eating in order to promote healthy living. So why is June primarily unhealthy foods?

The simple answer is probably because these special days were devised before healthy eating was anything that people concerned themselves with, and since we now know the dangers of eating far too much unhealthy food, days like International Picnic Day have probably been shoved on the backburner.

However, since learning of the dangers of a badly balanced

diet, the people of the calendar have devised a day in order to raise awareness – Eat Your Vegetables Day. It's just a matter of ironic circumstances that Eat Your Vegetables Day was placed in the middle of the “binge-fest” of unhealthy foods, and its purpose may be dampened by the overwhelming presence of these foods. After all, aren't we always tempted by at least one delicious cookie?

But, who can blame someone for wanting to celebrate fudge, ice cream soda and picnics? After all, a day that's called Fudge Day has a better ring to it than Eat Your Vegetables Day. If we're looking from the point of view of unhealthy foods, they may have been feeling a little neglected at the fact that the carrots and broccoli were getting all this publicity, whereas they weren't getting even a tiny bit of attention. It was probably time for them to get a little recognition.

Although unhealthy foods run the danger of causing you to become massively addicted to the sugar, it is important to stress that in order to maintain a good diet the fats and oils that are available in some of these foods are needed in order to have that correct diet. And also, we mustn't forget to treat ourselves occasionally and if that means having one or two pieces of fudge, it won't cause anyone any harm.

But the “healthy vs unhealthy foods” debate aside, whatever the reason for the many days of food in June, I believe it's something to keep in mind. We should remember those days as the sunny month rolls by, and we should enjoy some picnics with friends or family; gorge on an ice cream soda to keep cool in the blistering British sun and sensibly try to balance it all out with some veggies when you can. As always, when approaching what food you should eat, try and find a sensible balance between all of your food groups to keep you in tip-top shape and feeling your best!



Since when did hummus and crudités become a thing of the past? It seems that if you are seen dipping into a pot of hummus you are somewhat passé! Unless you are chomping down on a quinoa and pomegranate salad with a shot of wheatgrass or matcha you're apparently behind the times – or certainly the healthy eating times at least!

Once the suggestion of a “cheeky Nando’s” after school would have been heard echoing around the halls of the school; now, however, it seems that our food preferences have changed and are becoming Hertfordshire’s version of the Californian health! We may not necessarily be banning sugar and cutting carbs like the Gwyneth Paltrows and Katy Perrys of the world, yet we can’t deny that “clean eating” is a phenomenon that is gaining traction – but what does it mean, and more importantly, how healthy is it for your body?

Make mine a bulgur wheat salad with a side order of quinoa

So, here goes... clean eating is a deceptively simple concept – it’s food that has not been refined. It is not a diet, there does not revolve around denying yourself calories or demanding that you eat your own body weight in protein. It is pure and simply the idea that you eat whole foods, or “real” foods — that haven’t been covered in salt, or fats, they aren’t processed or refined, and they are as close to their natural form as possible; which means goodbye curly fries and hello sweet potatoes!

To repeat, clean eating is NOT a diet - it is a lifestyle choice. It’s eating fruit and vegetables (without all of the shop-bought mayonnaise!); it’s about eating pulses, brown rice, and pasta and knowing if it has a shelf life longer than when you’ll be finishing school; and if it does, you should probably avoid it! After all, who wants to eat something that is as old as they are? When you consider it, the fact that something can sit in a cupboard for years on end with an array of preservatives in it must surely make it bionic, or mutant... or something!

To put it plainly, clean eating isn’t about ordering almond milk, bulgur wheat and quinoa (unless of course, they tickle your taste buds!) it is about knowing exactly what you are putting into your body.

With this in mind, the golden rules are pretty simple:

- Make your own juices or smoothies
- Avoid anything with a long shelf life
- Stay away from the ‘fizzy pops’ and the energy drinks
- Think whole wheat or whole grain, and stay away from white flour, pasta or rice
- Drink water – it’s nature’s detox
- Plenty of good, wholesome fruit and vegetables
- Eat good, lean and healthy meats and fats (unless you are vegan or veggie... and in which case, don’t!)

Initially what seemed strange was the relative freedom that this new fan-dangled food phenomenon has. Pretty much, eat what you want little and often – as long as it hasn’t been overloaded with lots of strange ingredients, E-numbers, and additives.

There’s a certain joy about not worrying about macros and calories, it has absolutely nothing to do with what the bathroom scales say and everything to do with what your body is telling you. Once you have rid yourself of all the nasties you’ll find yourself with clearer skin, shinier hair and a spring in your step!

What’s more, seeing as clean eating is absolutely not a diet but categorically an awareness of eating clean foods. Go and have that Nandos, but leave the sauces and the fries behind!



PHILOSOPHICAL RAMBLINGS:

“The more real you get, the more unreal the world gets” John Lennon

This is likely to be my last Philosophical Ramblings in this magazine, and I wish I could have more time to write about the hundreds of thousands of theories and ideas that permeate this world. However, since this is going to be my last I felt it should be done with a more personal idea of mine.

I don't consider myself as a true philosopher but rather someone who tries to spout deeper thinking in a world where we fear what lies in the depths. This is where my idea – that multiple philosophers, psychologists, artists, and drunkards have contemplated in their own way – starts, in a world that is unreal.

I believe lots of philosophers struggle with the idea of what is right. What is the right way to act? What is the right way to think? What is the right way to feel? The answer to that question usually takes either a relativist standpoint or an absolutist standpoint.

Relativists such as Jeremy Bentham (who was a Utilitarian) and Joseph Fletcher (who devised situation ethics), would say that what is right is dependent on the situation, and that as long as we have done what creates the most pleasure (Bentham) or is the most loving thing to do (Fletcher) then we have done the right thing.

Absolutists such as Thomas Aquinas or Immanuel Kant would say that what is right is based on an objective reasoning of the world, e.g. Stealing is wrong because it doesn't allow humans to create a stable and fair society. This, in their eyes, means that stealing would be wrong in any circumstance, whether that's being a thief who steals for fun or a mother who steals bread for her starving child.

The reason why I bring up relativists and absolutists is that they're the foundation for what everyone

believes to be right and wrong, and in my opinion, they're the foundation for what keeps the world unreal. Our society is built on rules, with those rules based upon what we believe to be right and wrong. I would say that the system we have in place in the U.K. is somewhere in between relativism and absolutism, as we do have a law system that has rules we shouldn't break, making it partly absolutist; however it is also lenient in the fact that it will take into consideration the circumstances that lead up to why you may have broken the rules, making it partly relativist. This system is not what makes the world unreal, as I know it's necessary to have rules that allow a society to flourish because without them you'd have anarchy which would end with a lot of death and destruction. However, I do believe this system acts as a template for people to create social rules that end up making individuals and thereby the world unreal.

Lawrence Kohlberg, who I spoke about in an earlier article, suggested that people develop their moral reasoning through life. As a child, we are told that some things are good and some things are bad despite our wants and desires. Later on, we realise how those good and bad things interact with society and the reasoning behind why they're good and bad. Kohlberg felt that most people only reached this point of moral reasoning in their lives, where we should all do good things and not do bad things, however, Kohlberg did have another form of moral reasoning that he felt was above just looking at what's good and bad. He felt that those who choose what is morally right and wrong themselves, regardless of what they have been told by others, have reached the highest form of moral reasoning.

Kohlberg's idea is one I want to focus on, as it suggests that what is right and wrong is specific to each and every individual, not an objective law that we should follow. I sometimes think people forget this, as we are so focused on what

we have to do rather than what we want to do. In a world that forces us in one general direction that is: go to school; get your grades; go to work; socialise; retire; die (with some extra steps and variations within it) I feel we lose ourselves to the system.

I'm not just talking about losing ourselves in the mundanity of school and work and everything else, it's more everything that comes as a result of that. When a person is born they're supposed to fit into a specific style of living, much like a cog in a clock. We have social rules such as how to dress; what to watch; how to react; what's a good movie; what's a bad breakfast; who should we like; when to party. I could literally write a list that probably would be more words than what I have written in all of my articles combined; a list of rules that no one has to follow but everyone does because we need to be fake and 'normal'.

I know in some circumstances these social rules are broken, and sometimes people are even applauded for breaking them, but if you think of how many times you've done something because it would impress someone, or just because everyone else is doing it, or how many times you've turned away from something 'abnormal'; those are the times that you are not being yourself and are instead part of the social rules that is governed by the majority's idea of what is right and wrong.

My point isn't that we should force ourselves to go against the majority's views, nor feel bad for going along with it, it's rather a cliché of "be yourself" but actually do that. As Kohlberg would say, we choose what is right and wrong ourselves; not our family, not our friends, not Aquinas or Kant or Bentham or Fletcher, *we* choose.

I find I have far more joy when I choose who I want to be and I know I have chosen the actions that have lead to a specific circumstance. It allows for a sense of freedom that isn't constrained by the laws of others.

I'm not going to say that I'm completely free of being influenced by things around me (I believe that may be impossible) but I will say that I at least see what it's like to be free from anyone else, and that, in turn, is why I'm writing this.

The more I choose who I am, and the freer I become from my own constraints, the more I see how everyone else is staying fake, is talking and thinking about everything on the surface but not about who they actually are. "The more real you get, the more unreal the world gets" that's what that quote means to me, and I hope one day that will change for everyone. The last bit of advice I could give and will always give to anyone and everyone is if it doesn't hurt or harm anybody else, then "be who you want to be and do what you want to do".

* The Mo 2017-18 are looking for a new philosopher, it that's you please get in touch with The Mo team.



Keeping our Lady Fingers crossed as GBBO returns

As the next series of the much loved GBBO draws every closer, we can't help but question what is going to become of the Bake Off tent, and how will Toksvig and Fielding fair in the very much respected shoes of Mel and Sue.

Ever since we shed a tear that the 'beeb' had sold GBBO to Channel 4 we, or at least me, have been have been worried about the quintessentially British show's future. And for good reason too, I might add. What the 'beeb' had was magic in a cake tin. It had

just the right amount of bounce, finesse and absolutely "no soggy bottoms"; it had contestants we loved and loathed in equal measure, and the hosts – the delectable Mel and Sue, were the proverbial icing on the cake! To sell out to Channel 4 seemed to be like choosing a Mr Kipling Angel – it just shouldn't be done! When Channel 4 announced that they had a "bun in the oven" the outrage that flooded Twitter was clear for all, me included, to see.



Devoted followers of GBBO have been alarmed by the rumours that have been reported that new presenters Sandi Toksvig and Noel Fielding don't exactly seem to go together like tea and scones. Rather – the show's producers seem to have been putting out press releases stating what good friends they are. All of these PR stunts can't help but get me wondering - doth the lady protest a little too much?

Speaking to *The Sun*, Paul Hollywood, the silver fox of the bread aisle and the only remaining presenter or judge from the original BBC show stated that during filming he had, "tears rolling down my face because of how funny Noel and Sandi are".

However, despite the reinforcement of love and harmony Channel 4 are hammering us with, Hollywood reaffirmed that it is and always has been the contestants who are the main attraction, not the presenters... ahh, Paul – would you really be seeing that if you were with the dream team again? I don't think so!

He went on to say that "The characters on this year's show are the strongest we have had and the standard is ten times higher. People get wrapped up in all this 'host and judges' thing too much. They forget that it's all about the bakers." Again, can I just draw your attention back to the chemistry of Mary, Paul, Sue and Mel – innuendos, dead-pan humour and a little light sarcasm always stole the show!

To make things worse, Channel 4 seem to have got the PR wheel working with Sandi Toksvig too. When asked about working with Noel Fielding, Toksvig said: "I love him. We're good friends. He's going to dress better than me, but other than that we're all right. And I imagine he has more eyeliner than I do." Well we have to agree with you there, Sandi Toksvig of 1980s TV fame.



She went on to say that she was thrilled to be taking over a "national treasure"; well Sandi, rather than be thrilled, I would politely ask that you give it back to their rightful owners!

Despite there being no return date for GBBO, legendary Sue Perkins said that she wished the new team "the very best of luck. They're going to need it. They're about to discover what Mel and I left for them in the groundsheet."

As she presented the Baftas earlier in the year Perkins even managed even to sneak in one more dig before she wrapped up her opening monologue; she joked that she should "crack on before someone sells the format to Channel 4". All we can hope for is that now the producers try and do some justice to the show's format, and if the rumours are true, then Mary and Nadia (2015's winner) will team up and create something absolutely delicious.

Glass Walls

Beguiled by the broad beauty of the world,
we look around as if through glass:
Wishing Wanting Wandering
Yet, we are safe.
Or so we are told.

They teach us empathy, they teach us sympathy
the pretence of kindness as well.
So from an early age we see:
the world destroying, kid killing, head aching, eyes watering-
Reality.

Fooled by the façade of our parents full protection,
we have all had that faint, flickering, foolish thought:
but it isn't real, right?

Quite simply we are trained to sit, sighing and maybe even crying
to feel sorry for those poor bloody blighters
with nothing left but their screams.
Yet it is hard to feel when you can
switch it off
turn your back.

It shook me quite honestly when I sat and thought and sighed and finally asked:
'We're safe, right?'
Answer there came, but I didn't want to hear it.
All along I must have known the answer,
Conceived it somehow myself
For why else would I ask?

'Sometimes we have to take risks.'

Bile rose in my throat.
Anger welled inside of me for this lengthy lie
That although no one had ever told me,
I had trusted in all my life.

I suppose glass walls were always destined to be broken.